

Southern Regional Research Laboratory
New Orleans 19, Louisiana
December 23, 1948

To: Director and Laboratory Staff
From: Survey and Appraisal Section
Subject: SURVEY NOTES

FARM SITUATION

FARM INCOME SLIGHTLY UNDER YEAR AGO; INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION AT POSTWAR PEAK

With recent declines in prices received by farmers and rather stable prices paid, net farm income for the year 1948 is likely to be lower than 1947, the first drop in 10 years. Record large crop production this year has been primarily responsible for the price declines in farm products. Despite some weakening in farm prices and income, economic activity as a whole continues at a high level. Industrial production has advanced to a new peacetime peak. Unemployment in the nation is as low as at any time since the end of the war and the flow of income to consumers continues undiminished.

Demand and Price Situation, BAE, Nov. 29, 1948, p. 1.

COTTON LINT

COTTON FABRIC PRICES AND MILL MARGINS CONTINUE TO DECLINE

Cotton prices are slightly higher than a month ago with the C.C.C. reporting that 3,389,800 bales from this year's crop have been entered in the loan through December 9th. Mill margins for cotton fabrics have dropped 45 percent since a year ago.

Table 1.— Prices of raw cotton, rayon staple and cotton fabrics,
and cotton mill margins in cents.

	:Dec. 16, : : 1948 :	Nov. : : 1948 :	Oct. : : 1948 :	Nov. : : 1947 :	Average : 1945 :
Cotton Middling 15/16"	:	:	:	:	:
delivered at mills, lb.....	33.64	32.95	32.77	34.96	23.76
Rayon, viscose staple,	:	:	:	:	:
equivalent price 1/, lb.....	32.93	32.93	32.93	28.48	22.25
Cotton fabrics, average 17 constructions,	:	:	:	:	:
Price for cloth from 1 lb. of cotton 2/.	-	66.43	68.32	97.15	43.21
Mill margin 3/.....	-	35.34	37.55	63.82	20.86
Sheeting, 37" 4.00, yd. 4/.....	16.50	16.50	16.50	21.00	11.10
Osnaburg, 36" 2.35, yd. 4/.....	21.25	21.25	21.25	22.25	14.89
Printcloth, 38-1/2" 5.35, yd. 4/.....	15.00	15.00	15.75	20.88	9.60
	:	:	:	:	:

1/ Cost to mill of same amount of usable fiber as supplied by one pound of cotton (rayon price x.89).

2/ Price of approximate quantity of cloth obtainable from a pound of cotton with adjustments for saleable wastes (Cotton Branch, PMA).

3/ Difference between cloth prices and prices (10-market average) of cotton assumed to be used in each kind of cloth (Cotton Branch, PMA).

4/ From Daily Mill Stock Reporter.

COTTON CONSUMPTION CONTINUES DECLINE

Cotton consumption in November was slightly less than in October and substantially under a year ago.

Table 2.- Cotton consumption and stocks, and spindle hours in cotton mills

	: November	: October	: September	: November
	: 1948	: 1948	: 1948	: 1947
Consumption, bales.....	685,166	695,887	739,139	754,498
On hand, 1,000 bales.....	10,089	8,794	5,423	7,220
Active spindle hours, billions...	-	8.9	9.4	9.5
Spindle activity, percent of	:	:	:	:
80-hour capacity 1/.....	-	120.0	121.0	134.8
	:	:	:	:

1/ Includes activity on fibers other than cotton, totaling 0.6 to 0.7 billion spindle hours for each month shown.

From Census reports.

SMALLER PERCENTAGE OF HIGH GRADES, LARGER PERCENTAGE OF LONGER STAPLES IN THIS YEAR'S COTTON CROP

The December 1st cotton crop estimate was for 14,626,000 running bales. This year's cotton crop will contain sharply reduced proportions of Strict Middling and higher grades, somewhat larger proportions of Middling cotton, and considerably larger proportions of Strict Low Middling and Low Middling than last year's crop. Also larger proportions of Spotted and Tinged cotton. It has larger proportions of 1-1/16" through 1-5/32" and a considerably smaller percentage of 7/8" and shorter.

Cotton Quality Report, PMA, Dec. 8, 1948.

SIX MILLION BALES SEEN GOING INTO CCC COTTON LOAN

When the 1948-49 cotton crop was first estimated at more than 15 million bales, CCC officials were ready for a big price support operation. Original CCC lending dockets provided for a loan program covering between 3 and 5 million bales. Now department officials predict privately that CCC may eventually wind up with between 6 and 7 million bales of this year's cotton crop because raw cotton prices have shown little sign of moving up over the support level.

Daily News Record, Nov. 26, 1948, p. 1.

PMA CLASSES RECORD NUMBER OF COTTON BALES

The PMA had classed 7 million bales of cotton through November 19, an all-time high. More than 5 million were classed for farmer-members of cotton improvement groups under the Smith-Doxey Act, about 1 million for the loan, and the rest under laws pertaining to Statistics, Standards, and Futures.

Cotton Trade Journal, Nov. 26, 1948, p. 1.

PMA RELEASES COTTON TEST DATA ON CURRENT BASIS

The Cotton Branch of the PMA is making fiber and spinning tests on "pure varieties grown by selected cotton improvement groups" for the 1948 crop, and already has released a publication in August, and supplements during September, October, and November, giving comprehensive results. These reports make it possible for mills to have scientific test information on the current cotton crop at the time

they buy it, and should thus contribute considerably to the best utilization of the cotton crop. Copies of the reports are on file in the Survey and Appraisal Section, and elsewhere in the Laboratory.

HOPSON PLANTATION NOW MECHANIZED

Except for chopping, the Hopson plantation of 3,000 acres, Clarksdale, Miss., is now completely mechanized, using 15 International pickers, 24 tractors, 8 trucks, and 12 5-ton trailers. The owner said an efficient method of weed killing is the only "missing link."

Cotton Trade Journal, Nov. 26, 1948, p. 5.

NEW ACALA VARIETY INTRODUCED IN CALIFORNIA; EXPECTED TO PRODUCE AS HIGH AS 4-6 BALES PER ACRE

The U. S. D..A. Field Station, Shafter, California, has introduced a new variety, Acala 4-42, which is expected to supersede Acala 1517, now the only variety of cotton grown in California. Cotton from the new variety has less neps, is stronger, is whiter of color, is more uniform in staple, and is more adaptable to textile uses than Acala 1517. From boll counts on test plots the new variety is found to produce as high as 4 to 6 bales per acre. It was found to be a prolific yielder, to withstand drouth and heat, set a large number of squares and bolls when most other cotton barely maintained itself. The bolls are rounded instead of more or less pointed, which results in easier picking of the crop. Furthermore, Acala 4-42 bolls are larger than those of 1517 and they are stormproof, enabling the cotton to remain in the bolls indefinitely.

Cotton Trade Journal, Nov. 12, 1948, p. 7.

COTTON TEXTILE INDUSTRY AND EQUIPMENT

MOST TEXTILE MACHINERY CURRENTLY BEING EXPORTED

Compared to prewar, textile machine manufacturers in New England are doing double their prewar business. Approximately 60% is for export to France, Italy, Benelux, and India, Burma, Pakistan, etc. Almost all domestic orders are for the South.

Cotton Trade Journal, Dec. 3, 1948, p. 5.

LANE COTTON MILL TO BE MODERNIZED

Work on a \$1,500,000 to 2 million dollars program of modernization and expansion will start immediately at Lane Cotton Mills Co., Leon L. Lowenstein, Chairman of the Board of H. Lowenstein & Sons, Inc., owners of the mills, said. Overhauling of the plant "from basement to roof" will be included in the program, and an increase from two shifts to three is one of the goals. "Machinery will be overhauled," he said. "Some new equipment will be added. Painting, lighting, air-conditioning and other improvements toward making working conditions more pleasant are all part of the projected program."

Southern Textile News, Dec. 11, 1948, p.2.

SULZER "WEAVING MACHINE" ADVANTAGES DESCRIBED

According to Myros S. Curtis, director of engineering, Warner & Swasey, "we are confident that the direct savings through the increased production of the collateral savings (of the Sulzer loom) will be such that eventually the conventional loom with its shuttle, bobbin and picker stick will become as extinct as

the dodo." Warner & Swasey prototypes of the Sulzer loom have now been in operation for 8 months. They will be placed in sales production "as soon as all tests are satisfactorily met." The machine will weave 2 units of cloth at the same time, forming selvages on both edges of each piece of cloth.

Cotton Trade Journal, Dec. 3, 1948, p. 3.

"Even with all the cuts in manufacturing costs which we have made, this weaving machine is still an expensive machine, Mr. Curtis said. "It is a machine, not a loom. We still have to find out its economics It requires no great amount of experience or figuring to see that "it" produces a great deal more cloth than the conventional loom." Other savings are in bobbins, bobbin winders, waste utilization, etc.

Journal of Commerce, Dec. 3, 1948, p. 14.

MT. VERNON-WOODBERRY SHIFTS TO SYNTHETICS

Mt. Vernon-Woodberry Mills, Baltimore, long a major factor in the cotton duck and canvas markets, is fast becoming a large producer of synthetic fabrics. Meadows Mill, used as a warehouse since 1940, now has a weekly capacity of 50,000 yards of wool-rayon fabrics for the clothing industry. Park and Mt. Vernon Mills also are being remodeled. Southern mills of the company will continue to use cotton.

Journal of Commerce, Dec. 7, 1948, p. 16.

LOCATION OF COTTON MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY APPEARS TO BE FIXED IN PRESENT LOCATION

In considering where the cotton manufacturing industry will be located in the future, a first point to consider is that there has been a continued shrinkage of the physical facilities of the industry since 1921. In 1921 the industry had 37 million spindles; in 1947, it had only 24 million spindles. Junking of still more equipment, used during the war although it was obsolete because of the huge demand for textiles, is expected to take place as we return to a buyers' market. This reduction of facilities has been made possible by greatly increasing the hours of operation and also by increasing efficiency.

Very few cotton mills have been built in recent years and these mills appear to have located in the Southeastern Piedmont region where the industry already is highly concentrated. Instead the industry is spending heavily to rehabilitate and modernize existing plants. It is estimated that southern textile mills spent about 400 million dollars for this purpose in 1945 and 1946, and that much again in 1947 2/.

The fact that no expansion of facilities is now being made in the industry is a factor in favor of maintaining the industry where it is now located. The Southeastern Piedmont area also continues to have a relatively abundant labor supply as compared with the rest of the country although wage rates there for the textile industry are now approaching the northern standard. In addition, the region by now has developed very considerable assets for keeping the textile industry in the form of labor skills, managerial "know how", and auxiliary educational research; and consulting facilities. The increasing importance of rayon as a competitor of cotton as a raw material for cotton system textile mills should also be considered a factor for maintaining the textile industry in this area. Most of the rayon industry is located in the Southern Appalachian region, and thus the present textile mills are near the source of supply for this new raw material.

1/ Melbourne Smith, Southern Mills Develop Technology and Education. Daily News Record, Feb. 7, 1948, page 4.

In recent years, the importance of the Southeastern States and of Texas as cotton growing regions has declined somewhat. At the same time, there have been substantial increases in the percentage of the cotton crop coming from Mississippi, Arkansas, and California. In Texas, there has been some shifting to the western part of the state. Although most cotton comes from other than the Southeastern States, there has been no tendency for the cotton manufacturing industry to locate itself in the central and western parts of the Cotton Belt. Many localities in these areas have such advantages as adequate labor supply, low fuel and power costs, and of being nearer to the population centers of the Midwest and Far West than present cotton manufacturing centers.

California's situation in regard to cotton manufacturing should be given special mention. Production of cotton in California has been increasing rapidly in recent years and now approaches a million bales per year of good quality cotton. At the same time, California and other Pacific Coast states have large, growing populations and Los Angeles has become the center of a thriving apparel industry. By locating cotton mills in this area, a double freight haul across the country and back would be eliminated. These advantages would seem to make the establishment of cotton mills on the West Coast imperative. On the other hand, a diversity of fabrics requiring many different mills to manufacture are required for a given consuming center, and it would be risky to build new plants at present high costs in the face of the fact that there is already adequate capacity in the nation's cotton textile industry to meet anticipated needs.

One exception to the cotton manufacturing industry's tendency to stay put may be noted. Cotton textile plants are now being established in Puerto Rico, taking advantage of that island's low labor costs and special exemptions from taxation. From statement recently prepared by Robert B. Evans, SRRL.

C O T T O N P R O D U C T S

OUTPUT OF COTTON AND RAYON BROAD WOVEN GOODS DROPS IN 3RD QUARTER

A decrease of 11 percent in production of cotton woven goods, and a 4 percent drop in rayon broad woven goods production during the third quarter of 1948 was reported by the Bureau of the Census. A total of 2,270 million yards of cotton fabric were produced during the third quarter, which was 270 million yards below production in the second quarter, and 39 million yards below the third quarter of 1947. Rayon broad woven goods production amounted to 523 million yards during the third quarter. This total is 23 million yards less than in the second quarter, but 70 million more than in the third quarter of 1947.

Southern Textile News, Nov. 27, 1948, p.4.

BONDED FABRICS DISCUSSED

Bonded fabrics are now being used for the manufacture of window shades, oilcloth, wall paper, adhesive tape, linoleum and artificial leather, according to a paper given by R. B. Seymour and G. M. Schroder, before the sixty-ninth annual meeting of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. "These products are new," the authors stated, "but are already being manufactured by at least six different firms under such names as Masslinn, Steralon, Viskon and Webrel. Many other firms are making plans to enter the field and a score of companies are studying applications of these novel materials. Because of the economics involved in the production of bonded fabrics in contrast to woven textiles, the bulk of the material produced has been used for expendable items such as towels, tape, diapers, wiping cloths, lining for clothing and caskets, napkins and hospital sheets."

Journal of Commerce, Dec. 3, 1948, p. 14.

BAGS: COTTON BAG PRICES DECLINE SUBSTANTIALLY IN 1948

Prices of new cotton bags have dropped very substantially in the last year. As a result, the net cost of using cotton bags is now only slightly greater than for paper.

Table 3.- Midmonth prices of 100-lb. flour bags
(Dollars per thousand)

	: November:	October :	January :	September:	November
	: 1948 :	1948 :	1948 :	1945 :	1940
Prices, new, St. Louis <u>1/</u>	:	:	:	:	:
Cotton.....	238.00	238.00	321.70	173.50	99.00
Burlap.....	240.85	240.85	278.80	149.85	100.00
Paper.....	114.05	114.05	108.65	87.40	70.75
Prices, second-hand, New York <u>2/</u>	:	:	:	:	:
Cotton.....	120.00	105.00	165.00	110.00	35.00
Burlap.....	110.00	100.00	130.00	130.00	42.45
Paper.....	10.00	10.00	20.00	-	-
Net cost, first user <u>3/</u>	:	:	:	:	:
Cotton.....	118.00	133.00	156.70	63.50	64.00
Burlap.....	130.85	140.85	148.80	19.85	57.55
Paper.....	104.05	104.05	88.65	87.40	70.75

1/ Cotton, 37" 4.00 sheeting cut 43"; burlap, 36" 10 oz. cut 43"; paper, 18 x 4-1/2 x 36-3/4"; all l.c.l. shipments. From a large bag manufacturer.

2/ For bakery run bags as given in Daily Mill Stock Reporter.

3/ New prices less second-hand prices.

BAGS: CAR FOR BULK SHIPMENT OF FLOUR DESIGNED

A freight car built especially for bulk shipment of flour rolled out of General American Transportation Corp.'s East Chicago shops last month for service testing. Its uses are by no means limited to flour, however. It can also handle, under conditions of complete cleanliness, other finely powdered materials with difficult flow characteristics, such as plastic molding powders and chemicals. When tests are completed, this new Trans-Flo car will be used by National Biscuit Co., but it will be owned by General American.

Business Week, Dec. 4, 1948, p. 93.

CARDED COTTON YARNS NOW BELOW O.P.A. PRICE LEVELS

By examining the following comparative prices, it will be noted that carded sales yarns are well below last O.P.A. levels, while combed yarns are just about at the November 1946 ceilings. Combed yarns are still slightly above last O.P.A. but they have been coming down rapidly in recent months.

Count	Last OPA	March 1948 Peak	Current
CARDED			
10s, single	64.49¢	66-67¢	56.00¢
20s, single	70.00¢	78-79¢	64-65¢
30s, single	76.99¢	88-90¢	75.00¢
COMBED			
20s, single	78.24¢	95-96¢	81.00¢
24s, single	80.60¢	97-99¢	83.00¢
30s, single	85.06¢	\$1.02-\$1.05	86-88¢

Costs have increased considerably since end of O.P.A. and many spinners have been operating at no profit or even at a loss in recent weeks. Further price recession will mean additional production curtailment it was said.

Journal of Commerce, Nov. 23, 1948, p. 14.

NEEDED COTTON RESEARCH DEVELOPMENTS

Following are some of the suggestions of Theodore Felner, merchandising counselor, Macy's, New York, at the 19th annual meeting of the Textile Research Institute on needed textile developments:

1. Cottons and rayons that despite rough weave desired will be closely woven, minimizing stretch when used for upholstery.
2. Method of knitting garments so they won't shrink excessively after first cleaning.
3. Permanent crisp hand on light-weight cotton that will last after wearing and washing.
4. More lighter weight but not sheer cottons for hot weather wear.
5. Finishes that will eliminate starching shirts, bed sheets, curtains.
6. Flameproof finish that will not impair hand or draping properties.
7. Better wearing lining fabrics.
8. Cotton and viscose moires that retain original design when water-spotted or pressed.
9. More dirt-resistant fabrics, probably by yarn treatment.
10. Improved washability. This is perhaps one, if not the most important, of the needs of today. We need better washability in cottons and rayons, as well as in light-weight woollens.

Cotton Trade Journal, Nov. 26, 1948, p. 3.

SUMMER SUITS: NEW COMBED COTTON SUIT INTRODUCED

A washable combed cotton suit said to have the appearance of a tropical worsted is featured for summer wear by S. Demis and Co. It is made of Panama cloth, a Thomas fabric, is Sanforized, vat-dyed, and crease resistant. The garment weighs 28 ounces (said to be a pound lighter than a rayon suit) and may be washed or dry cleaned. In colors and patterns, including glen plaids and hair-lines, it wholesales at \$21 to retail for \$34.50.

Daily News Record, Nov. 19, 1948, p. 13.

SILICA USE HELD TO ADD STRENGTH, SPEED OF SPINNING

Tests involving commercial silica sol, such as Syton, in cotton spinning showed increases of 50 percent in tensile strength and 35 percent in production, Dr. Donald H. Powers told the fifth anniversary meeting of the Carolina-Piedmont Section, American Chemical Society: In 11s yarns spun from 1-1/16 inch cotton, at 5.07 twist multiple, the yarn strength was increased 30 percent, from 211 to 275 pounds, by the addition of Syton, it was said. At 2.57 TM, yarn strength was advanced from 105 to 279 pounds or 166 percent, tests revealed. Most satisfactory laboratory results were obtained by treating cotton card sliver with a dilute aqueous dispersion of silica sol with a powerful wetting agent to insure penetration. The card sliver was squeezed through a wringer to an 80 to 90 percent pickup, and the sliver dried by infra-red lamps. Evidence tended to reveal, Dr. Powers said, that silica does not penetrate the cell wall of cotton fiber, but remains on the surface.

Daily News Record, Nov. 23, 1948, p. 26.

NEW STARCH SAID TO DOUBLE WEAR LIFE OF COTTON GOODS

A starch for home use, based on U.S. Rubber's Kandar resin, developed for mill use, plus other compounds is being introduced by Perma Starch Co., Illiopolis, Ill. It is said to more than double the wear of cotton goods because "the plastic penetrates the fibers and, when ironed, the heat melts it around these fibers so that they are held in place instead of being pulled out and flowing down the drain with each washing. A dress was half treated with Perma starch and the other half with regular starch, then laundered 82 times, Perma starch being used each eighth washing and the regular starch each time. At end of 82nd trip, one-half was faded and full of holes while the Perma treated half showed no sign of wear or fading. Appearance and hand imparted are said to be same as starch, with no heating or cooking required. Each pint, selling around 75 cents, will accomplish same amount of starching as \$2.50 of liquid corn starch.

Daily News Record, Dec. 10, 1948, p. 27.

TIRES: NO CHANGE IN TIRE FABRIC PRICES

Prices of cotton and rayon tire fabrics remained unchanged during the last month.

Table 4.- Prices of cotton and rayon tire fabrics,
December 1 and November 1, 1948

	:	Cord	:	Fabric weight per sq.yd.	:	Price per pound		Price per sq. yd.	
						Dec. 1	Nov. 1	Dec. 1	Nov. 1
						Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Passenger car tires	:		:	Pounds	:				
Cotton fabric.....	:	12/4/2	:	.86	:	72	72	62	62
Rayon fabric.....	:	1650/2	:	.67	:	66.5	66.5	45	45
Truck tires	:		:		:				
Cotton fabric.....	:	12/4/2	:	.86	:	1/	1/	1/	1/
Rayon fabric.....	:	1100/2	:	.54	:	69	69	37	37
Rayon fabric.....	:	2200/2	:	.81	:	65	65	53	53

1/ No quotation received.

Based on reports from independent rubber companies for fabric constructions most heavily used.

TIRES: COTTON TIRE FABRIC PRODUCTION DECLINES

Production of rayon and nylon tire fabric was 4 million pounds greater during July-September than in April - June, while production of cotton tire fabric declined 4 million pounds, the total remaining unchanged. Cotton's percentage of the total during the 3rd quarter was down to 54 percent as compared with 60% for the year 1947.

Table 5.- Production of tire fabric in the United States, 1946-1948

Year	Quantities			Percentages		
	Cotton	Rayon and nylon	Total	Cotton	Rayon and nylon	Total
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Percent	Percent	Percent
1946.....	311	212	523	59	41	100
1947.....	345	230	575	60	40	100
1948, 1st. qtr....	88	61	149	59	41	100
2nd. qtr....	79	60	159	57	43	100
3rd. qtr. 1/2..	76	64	140	54	46	100

1/2 Preliminary.

Compiled from Facts for Industry Series, Bureau of the Census.

TIRES: SALE BY OIL STATIONS RISING RAPIDLY

Of the 91 million tires shipped in 1947 (9 million more than in 1946), 25 million went to auto makers, 3 million were exported, and 63 million were used to "reshoe" U. S. passenger cars and trucks. Of the latter total, 24% went to oil companies, as compared with 19% in 1946; 52% to independent dealers, same as in 1946; while the share of chains and mail order houses dropped from 17% in 1946 to 15.6% in 1947; and the share of manufacturers' stores dipped from 9.6% in 1946 to 5.8% last year. Since the war, 3 more oil companies (Gulf, Socony-Vacuum, American Oil) have brought out their own "Special" brands.

Business Week, Dec. 4, 1948, p. 88.

COMPETITIVE PRODUCTS

HENEQUEN: MEXICAN OUTPUT TO BE EXPANDED. NEW USES IN BAGS AND UPHOLSTERY

Current annual production of henequen in Yucatan amounts to 560,000 bales of 185 kilos each. Farmers plan to increase the harvest in the near future, it was said. Of the present total, 250,000 bales are used in Yucatan, while the balance is sold to the United States. Yucatan has established a definite policy of selling the raw product to the United States only, whereas the finished twines are to be marketed throughout the world. During the last war, Mexico supplied all its henequen and twine to the United States, but since that time sales have dropped off. Mexican rope and twine makers are faced with problems of rising costs. Yucatan henequen was priced at high levels and the cost of installing new British and American machinery was up substantially compared with prewar. Yucatan henequen is priced at 15-3/4¢ a pound, landed New Orleans, compared with from 9¢ to 10¢ before the war.

Plans are going ahead to expand both rope and twine making as well as the manufacture of bags. Eventually, it is possible the entire Yucatan sisal hemp crop will be consumed in the home market. New machinery is being installed by bag manufacturers, he said, and a new type bag is being produced weighing only 800 grams as compared to 1,200 grams, but with the same tensile strength. Bags are mostly for coffee, sugar and rice. An entirely new development has been fostered by Cordelerias Unidas de Yucatan (an association of 14 rope and twine mills) whereby the residue after the henequen is cleaned and compressed is sold to automobile and furniture manufacturers in the United States for filling.

He said considerable interest has developed over this process and it was believed its use would be expanded.

Journal of Commerce, Nov. 9, 1948, p. 13.

MOHAIR: TEXAS GOAT POPULATION DECLINING

"Billy Goats" are butting into hard times. The high price of meat, plus a plenitude of mohair and drought seared range lands, is hustling goats to the slaughter pens in wholesale numbers. In the first ten months of 1948 some 371,000 goats were sold at San Antonio--more than were marketed in the preceding two full years.

Wall Street Journal, Nov. 23, 1948, p. 1.

MOHAIR SELLS MORE BRISKLY

Texas mohair, until recently a drug on the market, has been reported to be selling briskly at San Antonio at 75 cents per pound for kid clips, and 40 cents for grown hair. Four million pounds have been sold; 10 million pounds are yet unsold.

Daily News Record, Dec. 6, 1948, p. 7.

MONSANTO FIBER SEEN NOT READY FOR PRODUCTION

Monsanto Chemical Co. may not have its new synthetic fiber ready for production for some time, according to some reports in textile circles. The company, however, has been working on the fiber for several years, according to other sources. The new fiber may be marketed as filament yarn or staple by Monsanto, or the company may arrange with some one else to make the yarn and staple, Monsanto supplying the raw material, as is the case with yarns/^{such} as the "Vinyon" for which Carbide & Carbon Chemicals supplies the chemical raw material. The Monsanto fiber in its early stages was known as "Cerex," it is reported, but it is not known whether this name has been continued.

Daily News Record, Dec. 1, 1948, p. 29.

NYLON: DUPONT BUYS SITE IN TEXAS FOR INTERMEDIARIES PLANT

E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., said today it had bought a tract and exercised an option on another, 1,700 acres in all, in the Guadalupe River Valley, near Victoria, Texas, 120 miles southwest of Houston, for a projected third plant to make chemical intermediaries for nylon. "The Victoria project is, of course, only in the early planning stage," said E. D. Ries, general manager of the ammonia department, "but if our plans progress according to the schedule we wish to meet, we expect to begin detailed design, ground preparation, etc., early in 1949."

Daily News Record, Nov. 30, 1948, p. 30.

NYLON: DUPONT EXHIBITS PART-NYLON TOWELS

DuPont is exhibiting at the DuPont Hotel, Wilmington, towels of spun nylon warp and filling but cotton terry pile made experimentally by Cannon. Nylon towels should last longer because most common reason for failure in towels was breakage of warp yarn. Other products shown are carpets with a nylon face and cotton back, and nylon blankets. Nylon staple has not reached full commercial scale, is being made by one unit at Seaford, Delaware, and is priced at \$1.65 per pound, but a downward price trend is expected.

Daily News Record, Dec. 9, 1948, p. 1.

NYLON: ARMY TRIES NYLON FOR FLAGS, TENTS, ETC.

The Army has developed a 75 percent nylon staple and 25 percent wool flag which is said to be superior to all wool in wearing qualities retention of brightness, and soil resistance. It is experimenting on nylon-wool blends and all-nylon products for uniforms, jungle boots, winter apparel, and tents. Detachable nylon insulating liners for tents are being developed because frost layers freeze on standard cotton duck. "Army research knows that wool may shrink against a nylon filler. . . nylon, some official say, lacks the insulating qualities of wool, especially when worn against the human body."

Journal of Commerce, Nov. 18, 1948, p. 15.

NYLON: DUPONT CLAIMS SAVING FOR NYLON UNIFORMS

According to a statement by DuPont, nurses, beauticians, maids can save \$100 per year by wearing nylon instead of cotton uniforms, based on initial cost and laundering cost of 6 cotton garments as against 2 nylon garments that beauticians are reported to consider adequate. The statement is said to be based on reports from stores, manufacturers, and consumers.

Daily News Record, Dec. 11, 1948, p. 12.

ORLON: PROPERTIES DISCUSSED BY DR. QUIG

Construction of DuPont's new Orlon plant will begin in March 1949, according to Dr. J. B. Quig, DuPont Rayon Dept. Orlon yarn is "the most silk-like synthetic fiber" and the staple is "the most wool-like synthetic fiber of which we have knowledge... It is potentially dyeable with several classes of dyestuffs and we are now engaged in working out practical commercial dyeing processes. It has been shown that deep, bright colors with surprisingly good wash fastness and acceptable light fastness can be obtained. Likewise, good crocking fastness and fastness to perspiration have been achieved.... We do not contemplate producing staple at the outset of operations. We are now engaged in an intensive development program to capitalize on the following attributes of the staple: Exceptional bulking power, a warm, dry, wool-like hand; high thermal insulation, dimensional stability in high humidity, launderability and dry cleanability. The bulking characteristic is due to low specific gravity, unique irregular cross-sections which prevents packing, and good retention of crimp. The present yarn can be dyed to pastel shades, but light fastness of basic colors was said to be unsatisfactory. Compared with Orlon, nylon has greater abrasion resistance, retains more of its strength at high air temperatures, and has a much better resistance to alkalis.

Daily News Record, Dec. 2, 1948, p. 1.

ORLON PRICES GIVEN

Present quotations of Orlon, which is being produced only in a limited quantity are: 100 denier, \$3.25 per pound low twist bobbins; 200 denier, \$2.85 per pound low twist bobbins; and 400 denier, \$2.75 per pound low twist bobbins. To date, practically all of the development work has been done with continuous filament yarn, which has ranged in deniers from 30 to 600 and in filament deniers of approximately one to five. As with conventional synthetic fibres, the lowering of filament denier results in an appreciable increase in softness and drape of fabrics constructed from such yarns.

Cordage World, Oct. 1948, p. 19 (English Mag.)
(In comparison with Orlon price of \$3.25 for 100 denier yarn, 100 denier nylon yarn sells for \$1.95, 100 denier viscose yarn for 99 cents, 100 denier acetate yarn for 91 cents, and \$1.10 for 50s (105 denier) combed cotton yarns.)

RAMIE FARMING AND MANUFACTURE PLANNED IN CALIFORNIA

International Ramie Co. of San Francisco, after 2 years of experimental planting on irrigated land in conjunction with Shell Chemical Co., last spring supervised planting by California farmers of its first commercial root stock, which will be used soon to plant 300 to 500 acres. Preparing and planting land in California are estimated at \$90 as compared with as high as \$200 in South. Adequate fertilization--ramie is a heavy consumer--is solved in California by liquid fertilizers fed through irrigation. Early next year, International Ramie Co. will build a \$2 million, 11,616 spindle spinning and weaving mill in the San Joaquin Valley. At first 35s and 40s yarn for bed sheets and pillow cases and 80s-2 ply for broadcloth will be spun with initial output of 1,000 bed sheets a month. A "Hi Draft" spinning machine, involving a number of technical changes in the long draft system has been evolved and patented, it was said. Converting conventional cotton machinery to the "Hi Draft" system runs about \$350,000 for a 10,000 spindle mill, but that expense is partly offset by the fact that "Hi Draft" machinery can be operated at 16% less cost than cotton equipment.

Ramie bed sheets and pillow cases are expected to retail at \$25 for a pair of each against \$8 for cotton and \$10 to \$14 for percale, but against \$29.95 for a single linen bed sheet. Degummed ramie fiber at present brings around 80 cents a pound but International figures it can produce it for 30 cents--20 cents for growing, 10 cents for decorticating and degumming. International counts on paying farmers \$6 a ton for the green leaf or \$270 per acre, with 45 tons per acre, compared to \$75 to \$200 per acre for cotton in California. In the South ramie growers have received \$3.75 a ton for stalks and leaves with 30 tons to acre and total return of \$110.

The ramie companies report that by-products of ramie have some utility. The leafy tops of the plants can be ground into a meal which has a protein content of 24%. Ramie fiber waste can be used for cellulose for paper making. Residues of the degumming process could be used as a liquid soap. Other by-product possibilities include a cooking sauce similar to soy sauce which employs ramie protein, wheat gluten and wheat bagasse to yield an amino-acid salt; separation of the ramie gums into waxes and low methoxyl pectins for industrial and medicinal purposes; and extraction of proteins from the meal for use in industrial plastics. This can be done under a process which leaves a third of the protein still in the residue which can be used as a cattle feed mix.

Wall Street Journal, Nov. 22, 1948, p. 1.

RAMIE: TWO MILLION ACRE RAMIE GROWTH IN PHILLIPINES SEEN FEASIBLE

If properly encouraged by American textile manufacturers, the Phillipines will undertake the growing of 2,000,000 acres of ramie within the next five years, Fred H. Nissle, business engineer, who is now in this country to purchase the necessary ramie decorticating and processing machinery said. Only recently, ECA authorized purchase of a large quantity of ramie for the French Government to be used in the manufacture of bank notes. Mr. Nissle said that with the loss of the Florida ramie development project through recent hurricanes, interest in purchasing and utilizing ramie from the Phillipines had improved and he was hopeful that its use in fabrics here would grow in the next few years. The rapid expansion of the Phillipine ramie crop is possible, he said, from present root stocks of the best commercial species which are available today in the islands. He said that work is developing to get costs down to a competitive basis with other textile fibers by utilizing the non-fiber refuse in cattle feed. The

Mindanao Ramie Corp., he said is starting construction on Jan. 1 of a large modern decortivating plant, capable of producing 4,000,000 pounds of dry, decorticated fiber annually.

Journal of Commerce, Nov. 16, 1948, p. 13.

RAYON: CELANESE EXPANSTION PROGRAM SAID TO BE "ABOUT FINISHED"

According to Harold Blancke, president, Celanese is "about-finished" in its expansion program with the exception of the British Columbia pulp plant, although this is still somewhat "indefinite." Some 100 to 110 million dollars have been spent on expansion since 1925, he estimated, pointing out that the management early had felt that a depressed market would be encountered and it would be necessary to have the most modern plants possible. Acetate yarn was said to be "much oversold" but there has been a bit of slackening off in staple fiber.

Daily News Record, Nov. 19, 1948, p. 1.

RAYON: NARCO AND BEMBERG PURCHASED BY BEAUNIT MILLS AT LOW PER-POUND INVESTMENT COST

Beaunit Mills, with a bid of \$17,111,126, was successful bidder for Government-held shares of North American Rayon Corp. and American Bemberg. Unsuccessful bidders were Aspinock Corp. (\$16,110,000), Rayon Corp. of Tenn. (\$15,097,822), and Kuhn, Loeb, & Co. and Glore Forgan & Co. (\$12,104,462). Beaunit agreed to use none of the yarn produced by NARCO and Bemberg and to allocate it to users as desired by Dept. of Justice.

Daily News Record, Dec. 15, 1948, p. 1.

Beaunit now controls 72.5 to 75 million pounds production of rayon, including 10 million pounds by Skenandoa, 10 million pounds at Childersburg, Ala. plant now under construction, 12.5 million by Bemberg, and around 40 million by NARCO. Persons in the trade figured the Beaunit investment at 62½ cents cost per annual pound of yarn production, against "considerably more than \$2" for a viscose yarn plant at present costs.

Daily News Record, Dec. 11, 1948, p. 12.

RAYON: INDUSTRIAL RAYON CORP. BUYS NEW PLANT SITE

Cleveland.- Industrial Rayon Corp. has concluded negotiations for the purchase of a 1,200-acre plant site on the Ohio River at Point Pleasant, W. Va., where a continuous process plant will ultimately be erected, Hiram S. Rivitz, president, announced. "Any new plant will reflect the refinements and improvements resulting from 10 years of commercial experience with the process, plus the results of research which is still continuing," he added.

Wall Street Journal, Nov. 24, 1948, p. 16.

RAYON: FIRST TIRE CORD FROM CUBA RAYON PLANT COMING HERE

The first shipments of rayon tire fabric from the new Cuban rayon producer, Compania Rayonera Cubana, Matanzas City, to the United States have been made, according to Stewart E. Seaman, pulp consultant. The cord shipped to the United States will be used in the manufacture of tires for export. Mr. Seaman said that the Cuban plant, which started operations about a month ago, was making first-quality yarn. Industrial Rayon's continuous process is used. The Cuban producer will have a capacity of 6 million pounds of staple, 4 million of tire cord, and 3 million of textile filament yarn yearly. Staple production has not started.

Daily News Record, Nov. 29, 1948, p. 2.

RAYON-WOOL BLENDS FOR SERVICE UNIFORMS IN CANADA

An initial order for 150,000 yards of summer uniform fabrics made from rayon-wool blends for the Canadian armed forces is being placed with Canadian mills. The construction is reported to be 48 x 48 plain weave 8 oz. fabric with crease resist finish. The yarn used is 2/20's cotton count 60% 3 denier 2-1/2 inch viscose staple, 40% cut wool top 64's quality.

Canadian Textile Journal, Oct. 15, 1948

SYNTHETIC FIBERS: NEW FIBERS NOW EASILY PRODUCED

According to Dr. C. Preston Hoff, DuPont Rayon Department, in a talk at Ohio State University, knowledge of linear polymers has now reached a stage of development which makes it easy to synthesize a new fibre-forming polymer. "The difficulty arises in finding a material with the right combination of properties to fill needs not satisfied by existing fibres."

Journal of Commerce, Nov. 30, 1948, p. 15.

TEXTILE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

SALE OF TEST INSTRUMENTS DECLINES

Sale of textile testing instruments has fallen off by more than 25 percent and the backlog of orders from war years has been entirely liquidated. Machine tool-makers have been coming into the textile instrument business, bringing along streamlined designs of standard equipment, as well as new ideas in the mechanical and electronics field. New machines find a receptive audience among research directors but actual orders are another matter.

New York Times, Nov. 21, 1948.

RESEARCH EXPANSION SLOWS DOWN

Most firms are not making immediate plans to increase their research activities, the second annual survey of the research requirements of American industry indicates. This is in sharp contrast to the results of a survey conducted a year ago when 73 percent of industry had plans underway for increased research appropriations, the Evans Research & Development Corp. reported. A majority of the companies surveyed now have the capacity to accommodate additional research projects without further expanding facilities or personnel, it was pointed out. Most companies are concentrating on product and process improvement and the development of new products in fields with which they are already familiar, the survey shows. The postwar shortage of experienced research personnel has been passed and has been overcome, industry leaders believe. Outside research services were used by more than half of the industry during the past year, with commercial laboratories receiving a majority of this business.

Journal of Commerce, Nov. 26, 1948, p. 9.

COTTONSEED AND PEANUTS

VEGETABLE OIL PRICES MUCH BELOW YEAR AGO

Prices of domestic vegetable oils dropped during the last month and are substantially lower than a year ago. Meal prices changed only slightly except for a decline in the price of coconut meal.

Table 6.- Prices of vegetable oils and meals

	: December :	November :	October :	December :	September
	: 1948 :	: 1948 :	: 1948 :	: 1947 :	: 1946
OILS	: Dec. 13 :	Cents per pound			
Cottonseed oil.....	17.0	19.0	18.0	26.9	12.5
Peanut oil.....	18.25	21.0	23.5	28.4	13.0
Soybean oil.....	18.0	19.0	17.8	26.2	11.8
Corn oil.....	18.25	22.5	21.5	30.1	12.8
Coconut oil 2/.....	21.0	22.0	27.0	25.5	11.1
Linseed oil 3/.....	29.2	29.2	29.5	34.6	17.8
Tung oil 4/.....	24.0	24.25	22.5	28.4	39.0
MEALS	: Dec. 11 :	Dollars per ton			
Cottonseed meal 6/.....	74.50	74.20	64.75	97.15	62.75
Peanut meal 7/.....	67.00	65.10	60.05	89.50	67.25
Soybean meal 8/.....	80.00	79.25	66.80	101.50	66.00
Coconut meal 9/.....	79.00	97.00	91.25	80.90	59.70
Linseed meal 10/.....	78.50	76.60	64.90	94.80	59.25

- 1/ Crude, tanks, f.o.b. mills except noted. From Oil Paint and Drug Reporter. (daily quotations) and from Fats and Oils Situation, BAE (monthly quotations).
 2/ Crude, tanks, Pacific Coast.
 3/ Raw, drums, carlots, N.Y.
 4/ Drums, carlots, N.Y.
 5/ Bagged carlots, as given in Feedstuffs (daily quotations) and Feed Situation, BAE (monthly quotations).
 6/ 41 percent protein, Memphis.
 7/ 45 percent protein, S. E. Mills. 10/ 32 percent protein, Minneapolis,
 8/ 41 percent protein, Chicago. prior to May 1947; 34 percent
 9/ 19 percent protein, Los Angeles. protein after that date.

PEANUT ACREAGE TO BE CUT 22%

Secretary of Agriculture Brannan announced on December 1st a 1949 peanut production program calling for a cut of 22% in the planted acreage. Next year's peanut crop will be grown and marketed under rigid Government controls. These were authorized by growers in a referendum a year ago. The 1949 planting goal was set at 2,611,367 acres. This compares with 3,340,000 acres planted this year. Brannan said the national planting goal should produce a crop of about 850,000 tons. This goal will be divided among peanut producing states. Each grower's marketing quota will be the quantity of peanuts grown on his acreage allotment. Sales from acreages in excess of allotments would be subject to heavy penalty taxes. Brannan said prospective demands for peanuts from the 1949 crop indicated that, without marketing quotas, production would be far in excess of domestic and export requirements.

Journal of Commerce, Dec. 2, 1948, p. 17.

SHRUB BEANS MAY BE USED FOR WAX AND OTHER USES

The joboba, a shrub of Mexico and Arizona, produces a bean that contains 50 percent liquid wax, and can be processed by any cottonseed oil mill. Aside from that, the bean has important medicinal agents, is high in protein, and its oil can be used in various food products. It contains a lubricant which has the characteristic of sperm oil, and the cake and meal, after the wax is extracted, can be used for plastics or for stock feed. Laboratory tests also show the oil to have

properties which should make it valuable to the paint and varnish industry. The plant may soon be grown commercially in South Texas.

Chemurgic Digest, Nov. 1948, p. 13.

SMALL PREFABRICATED PLANTS FOR SOYBEAN OIL EXTRACTION USING TRICHLORETHYLENE PLANNED

Use of trichlorethylene, a non-inflammable and non-explosive DuPont solvent is being planned for use in soybean extraction plants. This solvent coaxes the oil out of soybeans and costs about the same as other solvents used in soybean extraction. It is possible now to build small, one-story plants that will process 25 tons of beans a day and require little special training of employees. The plants can be set up beside country elevators or by groups of farmers for between \$75,000 and \$100,000, only a fraction of the cost of present day plants. The Crown Iron Works Co. of Minneapolis has exclusive patent rights to build plants that employ the new solvent. Use of these small plants will save considerable freight charges for moving beans to the relatively few present-day extraction plants in soybean growing areas. Extensive feeding tests of trichlorethylene extracted meal have shown its feeding value to be as good or better than other soybean meals.

Wall Street Journal, Nov. 30, 1948, p. 16.

BUTTER LOSES FAVOR WITH CONSUMERS

Butter consumption has dropped one-third in the last 6 years, and margarine consumption has doubled, but total consumption of both is expected to be 17% below 1935-39, according to a study by dairy economists of Wisconsin College of Agriculture. Butter prices are said to be favorable in terms of current economic trends and fat price relationships of dairy produce, but consumers seem willing to spend less of their income on butter than formerly.

Journal of Commerce, Dec. 3, 1948, p. 16.

CASEIN USE DOWN: BEING REPLACED BY LATEX

The negligible domestic production and demand for casein during 1948 will continue during 1949 if the industry maintains present high prices, according to dealers in New York. U. S. casein prices, nominal, are between 30¢ and 31¢ a pound, compared to 26½¢ for Argentina casein, duty paid, but little interest is shown in the latter. Domestic consumption of casein normally totals 70 million to 75 million pounds, but this year's total will be less than half that amount. "In addition to the various substitutes used by the paper and paint industries, a new latex compound has been developed which many consumers feel is better than casein."

Journal of Commerce, Dec. 14, 1948, p. 17.

FLAX PRODUCTION EXPANDS IN TEXAS

Approximately 220,000 acres of flax will be planted in South Texas this season, which is an increase of about 48,000 acres over last year, according to A. C. Dillman, manager of Texas Flax Improvement Association.

Southern Textile News, Nov. 27, 1948, p. 10.

SWEETPOTATOES

NEW ETHYL ALCOHOL PLANT TO USE SWEETPOTATOES

Plans for the construction of a new plant, which will use approximately 20,000 tons of sweetpotatoes annually for the production of ethyl alcohol, have been announced at Lafayette, La. by Acme Alcohol Products Corp., a newly formed company. The new plant is expected to begin production in about six months and will have a capacity of 2,000 gallons a day. The company plans to install machinery and equipment for the extraction of carotene, or Vitamin A. The sweetpotato is high in Vitamin A, and carotene is the factor that gives the potato its yellow color. While sweetpotatoes will constitute the primary raw material, the plant can also use cracked rice or blackstrap molasses in the manufacture of alcohol, officials said.

Journal of Commerce, Nov. 26, 1948, p. 9.

CITRUS

FLORIDA ORANGES OVERPRODUCED

In 1945-46, Florida citrus growers received \$236 million; in 1946-47, \$146 million; in 1947-48, \$115 million; "and the way it's going now," laments one citrus expert, "growers will be lucky to get \$25 or \$30 million this year." Industry's illness is said to be due to overproduction, with output climbing from 48.4 million boxes in 1941-42 to 95.4 million boxes last year, and acreage climbing from 216,000 in 1939-40 to 280,500 in 1947-48. In contrast, California acreage increased from only 236,000 in 1939 to 239,437 last year. The Florida State Dept. of Markets estimates it costs an average of 53 cents to produce a box of oranges and 36 cents for grapefruit. Growers are said to be losing money on every box of fruit they sell. Growers are being urged to join the Citrus Mutual, so that marketing controls can be put in effect.

Wall Street Journal, Nov. 29, 1948, p. 1.

FROZEN ORANGE JUICE BOOM ON IN FLORIDA

According to the Wall Street Journal, Dec. 1, 1948, a boom is on in frozen orange juice in Florida. Last year, this business took 4 percent of Florida's 58 million box crop; this year it will take 14 percent, 64 million boxes. New frozen juice plants are said to be rising, while others double and quadruple present production.

LINTERS AND CELLULOSE

PRICES FOR PURIFIED LINTERS AND WOOD PULP ARE UNCHANGED

Prices for purified linters and wood pulp remained unchanged with purified linters continuing to be priced lower than acetate and cupra grade wood pulp.

Table 7.- Average annual price of purified linters and dissolving wood pulp, 1946-47, and monthly quotations, June—November, 1948

(Cents per pound)

Year	Purified linters <u>1/</u>	Wood pulp <u>2/</u>		
		Standard viscose grade	High-tenacity viscose grade	Acetate & cupra grade
1946.....	9.50	5.60	5.85	6.15
1947.....	16.30	7.03	7.44	8.04
1948, June.....	12.60	7.85	8.35	9.10
1948, July.....	11.65	8.03	8.53	9.30
1948, August.....	10.25	8.20	8.70	9.50
1948, September.....	9.60	8.20	8.70	9.50
1948, October.....	9.35	8.20	8.70	9.50
1948, November.....	9.35	8.20	8.70	9.50

1/ Weighted averages, 1946-47. On 7 percent moisture basis, f.o.b. pulp plant. Average freight to users is 0.5 cent per pound. Prices supplied by a producer.

2/ Average of average monthly prices, 1946-47. Compiled from Rayon Organon and from letters to us from producer. Wood pulp prices are 10 percent moisture basis, f.o.b. domestic producing mill, full freight, and 3 percent transportation tax allowed, Dec. 1, 1947 on; freight equalized with that Atlantic or Gulf port carrying lowest backhaul rate to destination plus 3 percent of backhaul charges, prior to December 1.

DISSOLVING WOOD PULP SUPPLY AND CONSUMPTION

Domestic production, imports, exports, and quantities available for domestic consumption of dissolving wood pulp are given in table 8.

Table 8.- Dissolving wood pulp: Production, exports, imports, and quantities made available for consumption, U.S., 1939-48.

(Tons)

Year	Domestic production <u>1/</u>	Imports <u>2/</u>	Exports <u>2/</u>	Available for domestic consumption <u>3/</u>
1939.....	<u>4/</u>	88,052	48,232	<u>4/</u>
1945.....	<u>4/</u>	143,802	13,033	<u>4/</u>
1946.....	<u>4/</u>	202,192	8,491	<u>4/</u>
1947.....	324,927	248,606	10,389	563,144
1947, Jan. - Sept.....	242,594	179,935	8,473	414,056
1948, Jan. - Sept.....	268,801	189,038	12,397	445,442
1947, September.....	26,859	20,727	1,092	46,494
1948, September.....	29,665	24,164	386	53,443
1948, October.....	29,093	17,273	<u>4/</u>	<u>4/</u>

1/ Sulphite, bleached, dissolving grades. From Facts for Industry, Pulp and Paper Manufactures, Bureau of the Census.

2/ Sulphite, bleached, rayon and special chemical grades. Data from foreign commerce statistics of the United States, Bureau of the Census.

3/ Production plus imports less exports.

4/ No data.

RAYON PULP MILL TO BE CONSTRUCTED AT NATCHEZ, MISS.

International Paper Co. will erect its projected sulphate process rayon pulp mill at Natchez, Miss. if a bond issue of \$300,000 is approved by Natchez citizens. The process will permit the pulping of hardwoods instead of softwoods as heretofore, and the pulp will be used in cellophane, plastics and allied products, as well as in rayon. It is said to be particularly adaptable for tire yarn and high tenacity textile yarn. First section of the mill, scheduled to be completed in 1950, will have a capacity of 300 tons a day and will increase by approximately 16 percent the present estimated output of North American pulp. Its employment will range between 800 and 1,000 men with annual payroll of \$2 million dollars. Construction of remaining two sections would more than double the employment and payroll.

Daily News Record, Nov. 30, 1948, p.2.

RAYONIER NEGOTIATING FOR PLANT SITE IN GEORGIA

Rayonier, Inc., is negotiating for a pulp plant site in Georgia, it was reported in the market yesterday. The negotiations by Rayonier, largest producer of wood cellulose pulp, would indicate the possibility of early construction of a new rayon pulp plant, trade sources said. It is expected that a new mill will incorporate the production of new types of pulp now being experimentally manufactured by Rayonier. Observers remarked that the pulp company has delayed the initiation of commercial production of the new types of wood cellulose as output on a large scale would take new equipment. It was commented that the building of an entire new plant incorporating new equipment would be more feasible. The new kinds of wood cellulose are of very low viscosity which will aid rayon producers through reducing aging time in yarn production, it was learned. Whether Rayonier will consume hardwoods in its predicted plant as planned by International Paper Co. in its projected new mill at Natchez, Miss., has not been decided, it was reported. Observers remarked that output of new pulp mills in Georgia and Mississippi when available will be consumed with no difficulty by the constantly growing rayon industry.

Journal of Commerce, Dec.3, 1948, p. 14.

NEW WOOD PULP PLANTS PROVIDE CELLULOSE FOR 50 PERCENT MORE RAYON

According to the Rayon Organon, December 1948, the three projects already announced in Alaska (American Viscose interest), British Columbia (Celanese) and at Natchez, Miss. (International) will increase North America's dissolving wood pulp capacity by about 275,000 tons. This is enough pulp for 570 million additional pounds of rayon per year of present types. This year's U.S. rayon production will total about 1.1 billion pounds. If Rayonier builds another plant, the total will be still higher.

CELANESE DISCONTINUES CELLULOSE NITRATE

Celanese Corp. of America is discontinuing production of cellulose nitrate and will concentrate on cellulose acetate, cellulose propionate, and other new plastics materials now being developed, according to W. Stewart Landes, vice president. In 1931, cellulose nitrate accounted for more than 90% of total cellulosic plastics production in the U. S., but last year only 13%.

Journal of Commerce, Dec. 3, 1948, p. 1.

CONSUMPTION OF COTTON LINTERS UP

The Bureau of the Census released final figures showing 1,156,000 bales of cotton linters were consumed in the United States during the twelve months ended last July 31. This was 18 percent more than the 984,000 bales consumed in the 1946-47 season.

Southern Textile News, Nov. 20, 1948, p. 9.

TOBACCO STALKS ARE USED IN PAPER MAKING TESTS

University of Kentucky agricultural experimenters are at work on projects for manufacturing paper from tobacco stalk residues. The stalks are now worth \$10 to \$12 per ton for fertilizer, but research indicates 85 percent of this value could be recovered if the cellulose of the stalks were used for paper.

Chemurgic Digest, November 1948, p. 17.